

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 DODE-00 MMS-03 EB-11

COME-00 OMB-01 CG-00 TRSE-00 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01

SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ACDA-19 DRC-01

L-03 COA-02 EUR-25 /138 W

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R 240922Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3355

USDAO JIDDA

S E C R E T SANAA 353

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IO, YE

SUBJ: SUPPORT OF US NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA

REF: STATE 028352

1. FOLLOWING ARE IN-HOUSE RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS CONTAINED
PARA TWO REFTEL:

2. A. BELIEVE DECISION TO ALLOW PORT VISIT WOULD NEED
TO BE MADE AT HIGHEST LEVELS YARG. EXPECT YAR MILITARY
WOULD SUPPORT, BUT FINAL DECISIONS WOULD DEPEND ON AREA
SITUATION AT TIME AND DEGREE TO WHICH YARG WOULD EXPECT
TO BECOME TARGET OF HOSTILE PROPAGANDA.

B. BELIEVE YARG WOULD PREFER TO HOLD SUPPORT
FLIGHTS TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. IN ANY EVENT HODEIDA AIRPORT
IS CLOSED FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE DUE TO RUNWAY DETERIORATION.

C. YES, NO LIMITATIONS ANTICIPATED, BUT EXPECT
YARG WOULD PREFER NO UNIFORMS. MAJOR LIMIT WOULD BE
CITY OF HOEIDA WHICH UNATTRACTIVE AND LACKING IN ANY
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES OR NIGHT LIFE.

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D. REQUEST FOR BILATERAL AGREEMENT TO COVER LEGAL CONTINGENCIES COULD CAUSE MAJOR INTERNAL PROBLEM WITHIN YARG. EMBASSY ENJOYS GOOD RELATIONS WITH YARG AND WITH HODEIDA GOVERNOR. THESE WOULD BE FAR MORE USEFUL THAN ANY FORMAL AGREEMENT.

E. YES, BUT SHOULD BE UNOBTRUSIVE.

F. NO. FUEL AVAILABILITY IS PROBLEM HOWEVER.

G. PORT IS MANNED BY SOME SOVIET ADVISERS AND IS CONSIDERED SENSITIVE AREA. PERSONNEL SHOULD PROCEED DIRECTLY TO AND FROM SHIP. YEMENI GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE ARE VERY FRIENDLY TO AMERICANS. GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, WISHES TO STAY OFFICIALLY NON-ALIGNED IN ORDER TO CONCENTRATE ON COUNTRY'S URGENT DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS.

H. YEMENI NAVY CONSISTS OF A FEW UNSEAWORTHY PATROL CRAFT WITH POORLY TRAINED OFFICERS AND CREW. DONATION OF RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE APPRECIATED AS WELL AS HOSPITALITY TO RANKING OFFICERS.

3. BELIEVE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD BE NOTED:

A. NO SHIP VISITS SHOULD BE SCHEDULED FROM APRIL TO OCTOBER. HODEIDA'S CLIMATE IS EXTREMELY UNPLEASANT DURING THAT PERIOD.

B. NO PUBLIC CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IS ALLOWED IN YEMEN.

C. MALARIA IS STILL ENDEMIC IN COASTAL AREAS OF YEMEN, INCLUDING BOTH FALCIPARUM AND VIVAX FORMS. MALARIA SUPPRESSIVES WOULD NEED TO BE GIVEN CREWS.

D. DISTANCE OF EMBASSY FROM HODEIDA (150 MILES) AND ITS LIMITED LOGISTICAL CAPABILITY SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN PLANNING.
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